

HCS HB 631 -- SCHOOL BUS DRIVER CERTIFICATION

SPONSOR: Redmon

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS by Consent" by the Standing Committee on Transportation by a vote of 9 to 0. Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Committee on Consent and Procedure by a vote of 8 to 3.

Currently, school bus drivers provide an annual statement from a medical examiner certifying that they can safely operate a school bus. This bill extends the time period to not longer than two years if a medical examiner approved by the Department of Transportation agrees to issue such certification instead of a one year certification statement.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will save some expense and time for school bus drivers. The federal exam is far more extensive than the current requirement to also do a brief annual medical exam by the state Department of Education.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Redmon and Donald Fowler, Fowler Bus Company Inc.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.